



Common questions about adoption

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For couples who may be hesitant about adoption, Adoptive Families magazine offers the following encouragement.

Do adopted children know that they are adopted?

Yes. Today, adoption is not considered a secret or something to be ashamed of. Instead, it is considered a normal, valid way to form a family.

Do infant adoptions still take place in the United States?

Yes. More infants born in the United States are adopted by American families each year than children born abroad.

Isn't adoption outrageously expensive and outside the reach of most families?

No. On average, after the \$10,000 federal tax credit and the benefits that many employers offer, adoption is often no more expensive than giving birth. Adoption is affordable to middle-income families today.

Doesn't it take years to complete an adoption?

No. The majority of both domestic and international adopters who responded to a recent poll completed their adoptions in less than a year.

Don't adoptive parents worry that their child's birth parents will return to take their child back?

No. Adoption is a well-considered, legal transfer of parental rights that takes place after extensive counseling for both birth and adoptive parents. Despite the publicity surrounding a few high-profile cases, post-adoption revocations are extremely rare. Once an adoption is finalized, the adoptive family is recognized by law as the child's family.

Aren't most birth parents troubled teenagers?

No. Most birth parents are over 18 and terminate their parental rights because they are not able to care for a child at that time. It is generally with courage and love for their child that they take the action.

Are adopted children more likely to be troubled?

No. Research shows there is virtually no difference in psychological functioning between children raised in adoptive families and those raised in biological families.

Do internationally adopted children know the language of the country of their origin?

No. Language and culture are acquired. A child born in Korea and adopted by an American family, for instance, will speak English and follow the cultural customs of his or her adoptive family.

Do parents really love an adopted child as much as they would love their biological child?

Yes. The intensity of bonding and depth of emotion are the same regardless of how the child joined the family.

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